

56
The
LIFE
of
DEAN L—CH

by a *K*
YEOMAN of KENT.

NO CANTERBURY TALE.

And shall they escape for such Wickedness?

London,

Printed & to be sold by the Booksellers
of London & Westminster.

1748.

Price one Shilling.

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of
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YEOHAW OF KENT



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—————

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Candid Reader,



I am sorry it is my Task to expose
to the Publick View this Man's
Extraordinary Life, and Character,
which ought long since to have come out by
Authority from another *Place*; But I breath
the Grievances of my *Brother-Yeomen*, and
of *Many*. You'll say to what Purpose? I doubt
to very little Purpose; Yet, surely, to com-
plain is some Consolation; I speak Truths

but with honest Zeal;

To rouse the Watchmen of the publick Weal,

To Virtue's work provoke the tardy Hall,

And goad the Prelate slumb'ring in his Stall.

POPE.

Read, and then judge and have some Thought
for yourselves and your Posterity. If bad
Men, public and notoriously known for such,

were more frequently scourged as *Fran. Charters* by Mr. Pope; tho by Genius far inferior to *his* or to *Arbuthnot*, we should have fewer *Charteres* now trampling upon honest Men. Dean *L——ch* Cousin German to *L——ch* the Irishman, vid. *Lay-er's* Trial, was born in the County of Kent, and educated at a Country Grammar school there; as his natural Disposition will be clearly seen thro' the Tenor of his Life, we trouble not the Reader with his Actions whilst a Boy; and set off with his entering the Univerfity of Cambridge in the Year 1712. The Occasion of his being sent thither was the Will of an old pious Gentlewoman who had bequeathed a Legacy of 2000 lb Sterling to Sr. Franc. *H——d* or to him, her Grandfons, which of the two should first take upon him Holy Orders, These two hopefull Youths (who never had before a Notion of Adminiftring good Advice to any of their Fellow Creatures their Time having been entirely dedicated to themselves) started together for this Prize. Sr. Francis was of quick and lively Parts, but *L——ch* was dull and flow, and fitter for a *Load* than a *Race*, so the former won the Stakes by first leaping into Holy Orders. This

This Precedency, which on other Occasions would have remained unenvied, mortified *L——* to a high degree; But still least the censorious World should imagine that his Passion for instructing a Flock was influenced by any Views of Temporal Rewards, he soon followed his Leader into Holy Orders, quitted the University, where Duties and Restraints of different Kinds did not suit his Constitution, and returned to his Country, where he spent some Years, infusing ill-digested experimental Philosophy into us Farmers, who looked upon him as a jolly Fellow, and Pot-Companion. Notwithstanding the many Amusements he met with amongst us, and which he never omitted to improve to the best advantage, he took care to keep in View of a snug Living valued at £ 150 per Annum. The next Presentation of which (the Incumbent being old) his Father had purchased for him, being strongly of Opinion, that *Jack's* manner of Life and low Capacity would never entitle him to any other Preferment. The old Incumbent (whose Nativity had been often calculated in various Shapes on this Account) having for a long time deceived those who wished his Death, and innate Lo-

ve of Money growing up strong in the Breast of our young Adventurer, he grew uneasy and boisterous with his Father, tho' he gave him a yearly Allowance overproportioned to his Circumstances: for old *L——ch* had six Daughters, full grown Women, unmarried, and four Sons to provide for out of an Estate of £ 600 per annum, which his Parsimony had improved from one originally less than £ 200 per annum. This ample Allowance (the State of the Family considered) was no way equal to young *L——ches* Expenses, who had an amorous Proneness, strongly ingrafted in his Nature, and must be absolutely gratified in spite of all Checks of Avarice. It happened that our *Jack's* next Brother, a young Man of Make and Disposition opposite to him, tall, well-favoured and of good Parts, got about this Time the Affection of an old Sea-Captain's only daughter, The Father who was rich and thinking perhaps it might be for his health to marry his Daughter to a young Physician, consented to the Match, on Condition, that old *L——ch* would make a moderate Settlement upon his Son. All Friends besett him with their Persuasions not to obstruct so advantageous a Match,

Match, and indeed there needed very little Persuasion, for old *L——ch* would have broke down part of his house to let in Money to his Family, tho' he endangered the whole. But to pacify Son *Jack* was the Main-point, for he swore, abused his Father, beat his Brother, and in short became so monstrously outrageous, that the old Man was distracted and overwhelmed with Troubles. In this sorrowful Situation he Consulted the Rector of his Parish, Doctor *R——is*, a good Man of primitive Virtues, universally esteemed and beloved. Hereupon the Doctor advised him, as an honest Man, to give his second Son the Fortune designed him at his death, and by no Means to neglect an Offer so advantageous; but to calm *Jack's* untoward Disposition, and to reconcile him to his Brother's Match was undertaking a difficult Task; This was however attempted and when he saw all his Endeavours to obstruct the Match fruitless, he politically dissembled his Resentment to his Father, but could never find the Way to be in Charity with his Brother, or to behave towards him with common Decency. This stubborn Behaviour sensibly afflicted the old Man. and greatly troubled Dr. *R——is*, whose Thoughts

were constantly employed in devising ways to restore Peace to the Family, which an unexpected accident soon put into his power, at least as he then thought.

The Doctor about this time made a Journey to the Capital, waited upon, and was well received by, his old Acquaintance, the *Great Ecclesiastick*, who having a Daughter exceeding plain in Person and much deformed, intimated to his Friend his desire of Marrying her, adding at the same Time, That notwithstanding her natural defects, she would make a good Wife, and might become the Mother of Children. On the Doctors Return to his Parish he communicated this Conversation to young *L——ch*, whose Eyes being dazzled, and his Thoughts struck with the greedy Prospect of great Church-Preferments, resolved the Woman's Person should be no Obstacle to it, be it what it would, and therefore earnestly joined his Father &c. in pressing Dr. *R——is* to return directly to London, and propose the Match, filling the Drs. *Ears* with large promises in case it should succeed. But the Dr. in a good natur'd generous Manner told him, that he served him
out

out of pure friendship, and that if he could contribute towards making his family easy and him happy, the Satisfaction attending such Success should be his Reward.

When the Doctor arrived at London, to his great Surprize he found the *Ecclesiastick* fully informed of young *L——ch's* Character and way of Life, which at first disconcerted all Measures, but Dr. *R——is* with incessant Pains and many Journeys, joined to his great Credit with the *Ecclesiastick*, at length removed all personal Objections as to Character, and then prevailed upon the *Eccelesiastick* to mention the Fortune he proposed to give with his Daughter, the *Ecclesiastick* did, and made a demand of Settlement for her, which he said must be complied with, this demand (being near the whole of old *L——ch's* Estate, and the *Ecclesiastick* forbidding all further remonstrances) threw the Dr. and young *L——ch* into the greatest Perplexity: for it could not be imagined, that the old Man would be induced to starve himself and his other Children to make one great, who could not justly pretend to more merit than Came to a Child's Share; However unreasonable ne-

vertheless this might be in the Eyes of others, young *L——ch* had another Cast of Thought, and therefore attempted to make his Father think in his Way; for he was fully satisfied, without Impeachment of Vanity, that he had a greater Knowledge of the World and more Merit than all the Children together, and therefore ought to have more than them all. He likewise importuned Dr. *R——s* in a most fawning and artfull Manner to help him out in his Scheme by the dint of repeated Perswasions with the Father, but the Dr. answer'd That he could not entertain a thought of wronging his Brothers and Sisters, that it was base and cruel so to do, adding that if a Method could be found out of making a competent Provision for them, he would use his Arguments with the old Man.

Whereupon young *L——ch* propos'd giving a Bond privately for a certain sum of Money which, together with the small Matter his Father would have left, should make up a few hundred pounds a piece for each Brother and Sister, and altho' he knew this would fall short of their intended Portions, yet it would be in his Power to make amends for that deficiency by Preferment. This

[II]

This Scheme was proposed and Strongly enforced by Dr. R——is upon old L——ch, who listened with greedy Ears to all Projects of Aggrandizing his Family, but now it became necessary to communicate the intended Match with all its Circumstances to the six Daughters (the two Sons unprovided, for being then very young) the Girls grew almost distracted with continual Perplexities and Lamentations, and the more, as they saw frequent Instances of *Jack's* covetous deceitful Temper; Here Dr. R——is found himself under a Necessity of summoning up all his Rhetorick, and began by telling'em he would become Guarantee for the Performance of their good natur'd Brothers promises to'em, that it was the speediest and surest means to get them Husbands, for that the Clergy far and near would pay their Addresses in Hopes of Preferment.

In short by these flattering Arguments the Girls Expectations were puffed up to the highest pitch, and they now wished nothing more than *Jack's* New Station of Life, the Marriage Articles were soon signed, and their Brother after a very short Courtship, was made happy in a Spouse to his Wish.

Now

Now we must view him in a different Light, for he soon took a Doctor's Degree in Law, the more thoroughly to be acquainted with Justice and Equity; and by that means boldly to lay Claim to what ever he could get as of right, without dreading the ill grounded Rebukes of a timorous Conscience. We must likewise consider him as a great Man, a prime Favourite to the Great Ecclesiastick, and the first upon his List for Preferments. And to cast an Eye back to the Father's House that was now soon crowded with Suitors, the young Clergy from all Parts flocking in, so that each Girl had a Choice of 4 or 5 young Parsons, and good Dr. R——gis a large Share of their Prayers for bringing about the happiest and most joyfull days they had ever seen; They all expected soon to be Wives, such Swarms of Lovers came about 'em.

At the Palace of the Grand Ecclesiastick young Dr. L——ch had his flatterers in abundance, he thereupon assumed a solemn Air, and his Cheeks and Belly swelled to a most Orthodox Size. Within the Space of two Years he was loaded with Church Preferments to the Amount of £ 1000 per Annum.

Its

Its true, he so far behaved as an Ecclesiastick, that he strictly in this complied with the Exhortation of Scripture, viz, *Forget the House of thy Father*, for he despised his aged tender Benefactor, who by delivering him up, his all, like an honest well meaning Bankrupt, became the Object of his Son's Charity for when ever he chanced to visit his aged Father, his supercilious and unnatural Carriage overwhelm'd the old Man with Grief and Tears. Two of the Sisters forthwith married neighbouring Curates, young Men of sanguine Hopes, founded upon what they had heard of the Brother's Promises at his Marriage. These Men after a long and tedious Solicitation, got two small unmarketable Livings, rather out of earnest desire of getting rid of their troublesome Importunities, than to any affection for his Sisters, for it plainly appeared soon after, that he bore too great a Respect for the Father to make him Jealous of any good-natured, Treatment he might give the Children. The few visits payd by Suitors to the remaining four Maidens and those visits very cool, owing to the Experience the two first Adventurers had of their Brother in Law's Behaviour, enraged them to so high a pitch,

pitch, that they blamed each other, as well as their aged Father's Credulity in consenting, and perswading them to part with half their Fortunes, which must have got'em Husbands upon equal and fair Terms; Curses and the bitterest Reproaches were the portion of Dr. R——is who had deceived'em, with fallacious arguments; In short, they practised upon him all the Arts of Revenge which inflamed Hearts could suggest, or envenomed Tongues of Women could utter; whilst young L——ch, the growing Hope of the Flock, by his great evenness of Temper observed a strict Neutrality in this unnatural Domestic war. Dr. R——is who embark'd in the Affair with the best Intention grew terribly vexed with him, and therefore made a Journey to London, to try if he could lay the Storm by expostulating thereon with the young Doctor. But as the Purport of his commission was of a different Nature from that of the last, he executed to his Friends advantage, so was his Friends Style at this juncture; for he gave the old Doctor to understand, that he was to know his Distance, & that if he ever offered again to dispute his Will, the Porter at the Gate should be made to know him,

him, (his common Expression,) Dr. R——is's Resolution and Courage flowing from great Integrity of heart, upon such gross Affronts, was well known to young L——ch and as he foresaw the great Ecclesiastick would be acquainted with his ungenerous Treatment of the Dr. he lost no time therefore in prejudicing him against his old Friend, and to shew the World he was never known to do Mischief by starts of heat, but rather in the most cool and deliberate manner, he got his Wife and Mother in Law, (who had but too great an Ascendant over the *Great Ecclesiastick*) to help him out in hurting the very Person who procured him a Porter at his Gate, together, with severall other Emblems, and Appendages of Grandeur and undeserved superfluity.

This wicked artifice succeeded well and quite estranged the Grand Ecclesiastick from his old Friend Dr. R——is, tho' with the greatest Reluctance, for he had very justly entertained the best Opinion of his worth and Learning from a long Acquaintance, and was fully bent on giving him Preferment. Wherefore the Doctor quickly seeing the Engine that moved the Wheel to throw him off and

and being a modest Man, gave his young Brother Doctor no more Interruption to his Prejudice. Considering the Doctor had a large Family to provide for, and therefore whatever additional preferment may happen to be conferrd on him must be very seasonable and welcome. He shewed the greatest Command of Temper upon this close Trial; and to use the Words I've often heard him express upon this Disappointment, he quietly resigned himself to the Providence of God. The good Man thought as all his Expectations from the *Grand Ecclesiastick* were now entirely frustrated, and that as he was submissive and easy, he should be left undisturbed by his young Brother-Doctor, and at Liberty to pursue his Interest, no way interfering with the others Schemes, elsewhere amongst his Friends, for he had many. It unluckily happens that those who offend, are the last to forgive, and there's generally in malicious Men a surprising Industry. This was exactly Dr. *L——ch's* Temper, for he contrived by dark and evill suggestions to disappoint every attempt poor Dr. *R——is* made; who by these ungenerous Means remains unpreferr'd to this day. But this is not all: his
 Brother

Brother Doctor prides himself in insulting, and breaking his dull, rustick Jokes upon the old Gentleman, and his good, tho' unfortunate Family, which has disturbed their Peace likewise for some Years; and thereby greatly discourageth his childrens Promotion in the World.

We must now return with our young Doctor to the *Ecclesiastick's* Palace. It was before observed that at least $\text{£} 1000$ per annum, the choicest Preferments, had been heaped upon him, but this fell vastly short of his ambitious and boundless Views. For by his and the Women's sollicitations the *Ecclesiastick* was teased for every Piece of Preferment that became vacant, small or great. Nothing could escape this modest Compounder; But at last the *great Ecclesiastick* was roused from his Lethargy, and began to consider his Character, which he wisely and justly foresaw must suffer by yielding to this shamefull Abuse; a serious Reflection put him upon reasoning calmly and coolly with young Dr. *L——ch* concerning the Principles of Conscience and Prudence, Virtues he never knew but in Speculation. He reminded him of what was already

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done

done for him, and that there were a great many worthy and good Men, for whom in Duty and Honour to his Country, he was obliged to provide; That he considered himself only entrusted with the disposal of the many great and honourable Church-Preferments originally by the Constitution, and that upon a Trust and a Supposition that he best knew Men's Merits, and how to proportion Rewards, that ought to be dealt out to the most learned and deserving Men for the publick Good. He recommended likewise to him to consider, whether he would not endanger all, and greatly prejudice the Church of England, if, without Regard to Moderation or Decency, he grasped every thing that came into his Way; That if he became immoderately Loaded, the Legislature would see the gross Abuse, and then all might be lost; He concluded by telling him he had already much more than a Competency, but that as he was married to his Daugther, the World indeed would make an Allowance of Merit *for that*, and not envy him *what he possessed*.

The Ecclesiastick was peremptory, and forbade any further Application. The restless
Temper

Temper of the young Doctor however set the Women to work again and move the Ecclesiastick's Resolution, but it answered no other End, than to teaze and vex the old Man, for he had resolved and was immoveable. Here young *L——ch* missed of playing the Game upon the Father in Law, which he played upon his own Father, in the Country, he therefore bent a Knee to Necessity, and happen'd to think of one Virtue, PRUDENCE, which taught him to Acquiesce. It happened soon after, that *the old Ecclesiastick* was deprived of all his Senses by Sicknes, and Age, and became quite a Child, and helpless. It was now that the joyfull golden Harvest of all the young Doctor's Wishes were full ripe. Now it was that he began to reap, gather, and fill his Barns, without Controul, which like aprovident head of a Family he faild not to do; We must not mention his Faults, without trimming the Scales with his Virtues. He improved this lucky Sun-Shine so well, that no Lease, Grant or Paper was signed without his holding, & guiding, *the old Ecclesiasticks* hand to it; and to do him Justice, no Son-in-Law could have paid closer Attendance to agood Father; and his Wi-

fe so constantly joined him in this pious filial
 duty, that they were never absent together
 from his Person; All applications were there-
 fore made to the young Doctor, and the Ho-
 nours paid to him which were usual and due
 to the *great Ecclesiastick*, who ceased to be any
 more considered, when it was found he was
 represented by his adopted Son with the gre-
 atest Applause. Every Preferment, lay, and
 ecclesiastick, belonging to the Chair, was ni-
 cely weighed and valued by Dr. *L——ch*, who,
 on all Occasions of Church Preferments to be
 filled, Lent his hand to the *Great Ecclesiastick*
 to confer'em on himself, untill such Times
 as he found out Deputys to his liking, imagi-
 ning that otherwise they might fall into the
 Hands of undeserving Subjects, and so stain
 the Memory of his venerable and well belo-
 ved Father. By observing and Continuing
 this Method he became possessed of severall
 rich Hospitalls, whose Revenues he impro-
 ved with a peculiar Delight, especially having
 no Inspector to controul him. One of these
 Hospitals is exceedingly rich, being endowed
 with large Farms, and many great Mannors
 of immense yearly Value, the full Income of
 which Mr. *Dean* wisely conceals from the
 Knowledge

Knowledge of the World, to prevent, as is thought, Envy and Jealousy, two Vices which bear a great Sway in this degenerate Age. The Walls and Buildings of this great Hospital shew the good Intention of the Founders, and their publick Spirit to relieve and make their Fellow Creatures easy and happy in the Decline of Life: But behold the intention of the Donor's perverted only by the Doctor's differing in sentiments with them; for he pocketts the whole Revenue without Account, *With a View perhaps to enlarge this Foundation by an additional Purchase of more Mannors &c.* This Reason seems to be the more plausible as he keeps on foot a small Number of old Men, who, on account of the Badness of the Times, are indeed obliged to put up with a Pittance of small Beer, Bread and Cheese, and a mortified Chaplain to shew'em the Way to Heaven. But those who come after them shall feed better, if they choose it, for then the Times will become plenteous by the wellcome Return of their Halcyon Days, and Restitution shall be joyfully sung in their Ears, *cum omnibus Fructibus perceptis vel percipiendis.*

But to return from this Digression to the Palace of the A——Bp and his young Coadjutor, as Preferments became void, Men eminent for their Learning and Piety, who had Promisses made them by the A——Bp in his Sanity, of those Preferments, came to give undeniable Proofs of those Promises, and to require the Performance of them: but our Doctor had ready at Hand one Answer to silence all; viz: *I shall take it my self*, and in this he was as good as his Word, for in the third Year of the A——Bps Insanity he had carefully charged himself with £ 2500 per annum, Church-Preferments, and had the Artifice by trucking to procure to himself the great Deanery as an additional Pittance.

Now we must call him Mr. *Dean*, and as such, he was paid Court to by an honest Country-Vicar, who had a Wife and eight small Children, which he represented to Mr. *Dean*, if possible, to move his Compassion, and told him, at the same time, that the good old A——Bp had promised him (and he would find it minuted in his Graces Book) a *fine Cure* or donative of the Yearly Value of Eighty Pounds consisting of the Corn Tyth of the Parish,

Parish, which Parish had been under his Care as Vicar for 20 Years, upon a small yearly stipend, and hoped, as it was then void, the old A——Bps promise would be made good to him. Mr. *Dean* made answer, he was glad it was void, *for he should take it himself*, and so left the poor Vicar in Tears, and Despair, and his family starving; Many of those little Sine Cures are held by Mr. *Dean* to this Day, Snug and Silent, and the Vicars left unenvied by the above mentioned old disappointed Gentleman. All Treasurer Ships, Chantry, Prebends, Donatives, Sine Cures, Hospitals, the Reverend *Dean* possessed himself off; He had so many large Livings with their Chapelrys, that he could take no more of that sort, the Market was glutted with Merchandizes. The Livings of the A-prick with Cure of Souls were from that time filled with Men never before Seen, or heard of at the Palace. Money rolled in upon the *Dean* in Abundance, and his Wife grew rich also, for she was entrusted with an unlimited Commission to receive certain Sums of their own Denomination; At last, by way of Variety, Mr. *Dean* turned his head to the Purchase of Lands, and to enlarging his Possession about his paternal Seat.

A certain Society, possessed of a Manour near the Dean's house, used to lease it out in Parcels to the Gentlemen of the Country, as the Lands lay most convenient to their respective Farms. On this Manour the Dean ceased not to cast a wishfull Eye for a long time, and at last found out a Member of the Corps, who was thoroughly fit for his Purpose, as he could influence his Brethren with a persuasive Address. The Dean hereupon sent for him, and offered him a Living of £240 per annum, in case he could procure him a Lease of the whole Manour; Which he undertook, and with Some difficulty gain'd his Point with the Society on easy Terms, as they were entirely guided by their old Rent-Roll, and overlook'd the Improvements. This Cession was so privately transacted, that the Gentlemen did not discover till it was too late to remedy it; Their Estates were to be snatched from them, for alas there was no remedy. Hereupon ensued the heaviest Reflections on the Dean, attended with Illwill, but he laughed in his accustomed Way and braved it all off. The thing by degrees was pretty much silenced, tho' it will probably never be forgiven or forgot; For many Farms are

are entirely Spoiled by taking Lands from'em,
on which convenient Houses were built,
Hops planted &c.

About this Time a Living of near £200
per annum became void, a Parish in which
a young Clergyman had an Estate. This
Gentleman applyed himself to Mr. Dean, of-
fering to marry one of his Sisters, if he might
have the Living. His Reverence (who till
now had scarce remembred whether he had
a Sister or Father) bid him go court one of'm,
which he accordingly did, and upon viewing
the four, pitch'd upon the youngest, paid his
Addresses to her, and won her Affections, of
which glad Tidings he acquainted Mr. Dean,
as well as of his ready Intention to marry
her; but being asked *Which of the Sisters?*
and he replying *the Youngest.* Ha! Says Mr.
Dean with a Sneer, *you must marry the El-
dest, or no Living.* The poor man expostu-
lated upon the Topicks of Love, and his En-
gagement to the Lady. But his intended
Brother-in-Law was habitually inexorable,
and therefore resolv'd to shew his Power
by making cruel Sport of the *tender Passion*;
The young Parson's Heart however was fixed.

on the Living; he was determined to have it at any rate; so he returns to the house of old *L——ch*, where he was joyfull received by the youngest Sister, who flushed with Expectation, was the first to meet him as her Husband and to salute him with a wellcome Kiss. But upon his acquainting her with the Orders of her arbitrary Brother, which he said he was under the Necessity of complying with, the poor Girl directly fell into Fits. Grief on the Disappointment so impaired her Health, that Time and Physick have been Scarce able to re-establish it, and her mind is hardly right to this day, her Brother's inhuman Treatment in this Shape betrays Ingratitude in the highest Degree, throwing aside all Tyes of Blood, for this Girl had prov'd too a main help to him, in making up his *even Sam*, by giving her Opinion too warmly at the Tryall of a *Certain Cause*, the Success of which her Brother had greatly at Heart, for it was to *bring him much Gain*. She had the Dishonour, poor Girl, to be turned out of a Court of Justice for overacting in the Affair, at the Persuasion of her dear Brother, and to oblige him; her Meaning having been probably misconstrued by the Court; however, her Re-

verend

verend Brother, it is hoped, will, one Time or other, in some of his good-natured Starts or Intervals, recompence her Close and dear-bought Attachment to his Interest, especially as she hath since married a Clergyman after Mr. Dean's own Heart, both in Principle and Practice. We hear he hath promised them the first fat Living that shall become void in his Churches, out of Gratitude; And as an Earnest of his future good Intention, he hath already placed *this well-match'd Pair* over a great School, to tincture the Minds of Youth, and to give us a most hopefull Prospect of the succeeding Generation.

We have mentioned two younger Sons of old *L—ch*, whose Fortunes were reduced by their elder Brother's unexpected Marriage, and they, at that time, too young to discern the Nature of the Monopoly. As these Lads grew up, they were suffered to beat the Streets, for their Father had not Ability left him to give them Education, and their Brother, in his exalted State, had not a Heart susceptible of a tender Impression; that neither the Tears nor the Entreaties of an aged Parent could move him even to cast an Eye
of

of Pity upon the unhappy Youths; What ensued? Their innate Pride and Passions, thro' their Brothers Neglect, drove them upon desperate Courses, and we are told they have since pawned their Religion for Bread in a foreign Country.

At Length the grey Hairs of old *L——ch* were brought down with Sorrow to the Grave; on his Death-Bed he called aloud, and often, for his Son. Messenger after Messenger was sent up to the Palace of the *A——Bp*, signifying the old Mans eager desire to see his Son before he died; and to beseech him to go down. But the mighty and important affairs of the Coadjutorship were the Son's Excuse to a Dying Father, and he saw him not.

The *A——Bp*, during his Sanity, directed his Officers (and his Cathedral Church followed the Example) to be moderate and easy with his Tenants in their *Fines* for Estates; for it was his Principle and Advice to all Churchmen (as He had the Disinterested Spirit which formerly dwelt amongst our good old Reformers) to consider their Preferments as the Gift of the Publick, and not as Lands
of

of Inheritance, that they ought not to Screw up the Rents of their Lands to a rigorous Value, and *so grind the Faces of their poor Tenants*. But that they should suffer all to flourish with Chearfullness, under them, and that by their so doing men would look up to them with Joy unmixed with Envy at what they possess. But Mr. Dean L——ch's Maxims and Policy were quite of the opposite Cast. His Coadjutorship was one continued Scrutiny into the Value of all Estates belonging to his Cathedral Churches, and his Hospitals. He employd certain Emisarrys who informed him of all, and the most Minute Improvements upon each Tenant's Estate. The Tenants upon each Renewal found themselves under the Necessity of paying much larger Sums of Money for their Estates, than ever they had been accustomed to pay, and many Gentlemen were treated most insolently by him, if they offered to reason, or dispute his Will; and Yeomen and Farmers he rated as his Dogs. He now glories in having doubled the Revenues of his Several Churches, by rending and stripping whole Families of Possessions, they had been long and quietly settled in; and expects his Statue to be
erected

erected for these his notable and great Explo-
 its. I may be excused if I here insert the
 words of B——p Latimer in one of his Ser-
 mons before the King, and all our Historians
 commend his christian Boldnes; That good
 B——p, Says, “ These *Step-Lords* instead of
 “ *Land-Lords* insatiably covetous, raise their
 “ old Rents so, that what had gone before
 “ for 20 or 30 Pounds a Year (which was an
 “ honest Man’s Portion to be had in one Lord-
 “ ship from other Men’s Sweat and Labours)
 “ was now let for 50 or 100 Pound a Year.
 “ This Evil impoverisheth the Yeomanry,
 “ which is the chief Stay of the Nation.
 “ For our of the Yeomen proceed Soldiers
 “ for the Kings Wars, Husbandmen for im-
 “ proving Land, for producing Fruits and
 “ Corn; Seamen for the King and Merchants-
 “ Ships, Supplies of People for the Trades
 “ and Occupations in the City, and Scho-
 “ lars to be sent to the Universitys. But this
 “ Rank of men so Serviceable to the State,
 “ that used to be of good Wealth, and live
 “ in a plentiful Condition, are brought to
 “ low and mean Circumstances, by racked
 “ Rents. A Yeoman used to keep Hospita-
 “ lity for his poor, Neighbours and some
 alms

“ alms he gave to the Poor, and all this he
 “ did out of his Farm; whereas now he is
 “ not able to do any thing for his Prince,
 “ himself, nor for his Children, or give a Cup
 “ of Drinck to his poor Neighbour.”

The A——Bp continued five Years in an
 infirm, senseless State, and then breathed out
 his last and Mr. Dean retired with his Wife
 to his paternal Seat, to the Affliction of all
 us Farmers, for he came as an evil Angel to
scourge and to *torment* us. I believe, I speak
 the Truth, there is not one of us within ten
 Miles of him, who hath not some just Matter
 of Complaint of Sufferings from him. It
 would swell a Volume to detail Circumstan-
 ces, and set forth the many honest, industri-
 ous Family's ruined and reduced to extreme
 Want by his oppressive Arts, and those who
 have been suddenly turned out of their Farms
 by him. Whenever he found a Farm well im-
 proved by a too credulous and unwary Occu-
 pant, he wanted not Invention to anvil out
 some specious Pretence to eject him. I ap-
 peal to my Brother Yeomen's sad Experience:
 One Story, amongst many other of the like
 kind but too well known, I shall relate. An
 Extra-

Extravagant young Man, possessed of a pretty Farm, at the very Entrance of Mr. Dean's House Val. £40 per annum, mortgaged this Estate to him for £500. The young Man was careless, and omitted the Payment of Interest for 4 Years, which Omission his Reverence failed not to profit of, by entering upon the Estate. He pulled down the Man's House at once, he destroyd the Orchard and Hop-Ground, and, covering it with Gravel, made a bold & large Avenue to his House. This being done, the Estate was not worth £20 per annum, and would sell to no Man but himself. So the poor young Fellow was without Remedy and Mr. Dean foreclosed the Equity of Redemption and got his Estate for about half Value.

But to lay aside all these low lucrative Tricks, I am forced now upon a most disagreeable Narrative, Shocking even to Heathen Ears, and *not to be named amongst Christians*. Men are not wont to fall into Scandalous and horrible Practices at once, there are previous and gradual Introductions.

Is it possible, that a Dignitary of a Church should be branded in Publick Papers with infamous and beastly Abominations? And this Charge should be affixed to the Gates of his Deanery, and to the City-Gates, without his having given Occasion, at least by Imprudence?

This rarely happens but upon some Cause given, I hope he is falsely charged, and I would advise him to avoid, not only the Evill, but the Appearance of it; If his constant Companions are the Singing Men of his Cathedral, if these Persons are suffered (tho' bearing the most infamous Characters) to govern his Family, and insult his Servants, &c. If the best Part of his Time is spent in Whisk (at which Game few are longer awake) and at Church he'll Sleep and Snoar to the great Disturbance of Congregations?

Can he expect to be screened from what is so liberally and universally distributed amongst us, *Scandal*? against which perhaps he thinks his overgrown Fortune is a sure and sufficient Fence. But I say no more. By *these Deeds great Occasion is given to the Enne-*

mies of the Lord to blaspheme. It is unjust and cruel to charge upon a Body of Men the Vices of a single Person. "To stifle or
 " studiously palliate these Facts of his Character thro a false notion of Tenderness to
 " the Church, would be wrong; for the Blemishes of any individual Professor of, or
 " Pretender to Religion, can no more cast a Blot upon Religion itself, than Gold can
 " be impaired by its being sometimes kept in a dirty Purse." Vid *Life of Bp. Atherton in Biog. Britan.*

The tragical Storys of Mr. *Roberts*, and of *Ladd* the Choirister and their *suspicious Deaths*, are published to the World, so I am saved the Pain of telling them. The indecent Fondness of Mr. *D——n* for the one and his inhuman Treatment of the other is beyond Example. We imagined that Pride had turned his Brain, for he was so infatuated, that he forgot himself, and took not common Care and Caution to save Appearances. The Person of *Ladd* was his wanton Delight in all Companys; and Mr. *Roberts* wife Sayings, decent and sensible Behaviour he made the constant Subject and Ornament of his Discourse,

course, whilst he was starving him in a Garret, confined upon Pretence of Idiocy, to merit a Legacy from the rich old Mrs. Pyke; And he still glories in the share he had (called by him *good Management of Law*) in tricking the young Gentleman out of his Liberty and Estate, by swearing him an Idiot.

*One, one Man only breeds my just offence,
Whom Crimes gave Wealth, and Wealth gave
Impudence*

*Time that at last brings all Events to pass,
Hath made him an Attorney of an Ass.*

See Satires of Dr. Donne, verified by
Pope, and a Print called *an Ass loaded
with Preferments.*

Good sometimes comes out of Evil, for these Accidents have help'd to bring about a happy Reconciliation between the Brothers, the D——n and the Physitian, and the Reverend Mr. L—t—n house, (whom I remember doing Penance for adultery) is preferred to a good Living by Mr. Dean, and many others are amply provided for; So these dark *Matters* are artfully covered up. But it is my Belief, the Judgments of God will reach, where human Justice falleth short. To save the Characters of some great Persons, the Murtherers of

Sr. *Thomas Overbury* were suffered to escape, and all our Historians impute the succeeding Calamity's, in some Measure, to that Neglect.

If these Things are so, you will tell me, why do you not prosecute? why not take the legal Method? Courts of Justice are open. The Answer is easy: I am a poor Man, *the Face of a Court may be against me*, I own I am not *hardy enough*; but should Mr. D——n be so hardy to deny a single Fact herein related, I will forthwith declare my Name, and fetch my Proofs from the Knowledge of his Neighbours many Miles around him.

“ Looke ye, saith Bishop Latimer to the
 “ King, How *Lady Avarice* sets them to
 “ Work, to rob the Poor, to turn them out of
 “ their Livings and Right. When Christ suffered his Passion, there was one Barrabas, St.
 “ Matthew calls him a notable Thief a Gentleman
 “ Thief, the other two *obscure Thieves* and nothing famous were hanged, and Barrabas was
 “ delivered. Even so now-a-days, the little
 “ Thieves are hanged, that steal for necessity, but the Barrabas's have full Liberty to
 “ rob, and steal, and to suck the Blood of
 “ your People in Midst of your City.

He

“ He tells the King, that the law was beco-
 “ me the People’s greatest Grievance. That
 “ so many poor Suitors, who had spent their
 “ All, and many times more, came about
 “ him every Term that he had not time to
 “ look in his Book. O, says he to the King,
 “ I wish the Skins of those who encourage
 “ this, who pervert or strain the Laws for
 “ Power, and thereby multiply Law-Suits,
 “ were hung up, be he a Judge, be he a Chief
 “ Justice, or Lord Chancellor himself, it
 “ would be a Goodly Sight. „

*A single Fail in Alfreds golden reign,
 Could half the Nation’s Criminals contain.
 Fair Justice then, without constraint ador’d,
 Held high the steady Scale, but deepd the
 Sword.*

*No Spies were paid, no special Furies known.
 Blest Age! but ah! how different from our
 own.*

Much could I add.

London, a Satire, by S. Johnson.

And now before I take my Leave of the
 family of L——ches, I must recommend to
 the serious Reading of Dr. L——ch the Physi-

than a Passage or two out of that Prince of his
 Faculty, *Hippocrates*, which I have read in a
 Translation. It is his Advice to Physicians,
 (as they have great Opportunities, if they are
 wicked enough to abuse the Confidence of Fa-
 milys) to be *continent* and to keep a strict Gu-
 ard upon themselves with Respect to Women.
 I will be free also and give the Physician some
 local Advice of my own, which is, to check
 Lasciviousness, and to keep his Hands and
 wanton Thoughts off from the *Wives* and
Daughters of us *Farmers*, for their Education
 is low and virtuous, and they are instructed
 only how to have Children conscientiously,
 and to love lawfully; Moreover they have not
 the Art of keeping amorous Overtures secret,
 I will not enlarge further in my Advice to
 him; he can judge of the Inclinations and Dis-
 positions of Ladys of Birth and Education bet-
 ter then I can, and as they themselves do not
 cry out or complain, I leave him with them
 at his own Discretion.

A good Man allows himself no Latitude
 when he speaks of other Men's Characters:
 And I hope I have kept up to the Truth
 strictly. I have as large Share of Honour as
 an

an honest Yeoman can pretend to and am not ashamed to tell my Country, I fear God, and sincerely hope this Picture hung up, as it were before Mr. D——ns Eyes, may help him to know himself, and to amend his Life; to throw aside *the Book of Mr. Hoyle*, and read the *Scriptures*, which will teach him his Duty to his God and his Neighbour, and put him upon serious Thoughts of Restitution especially to poor old Men, the widows and Orphans, for whose support his Hospitals were founded, and to whom their Revenues belong. I would have him mark well and consider the Words of Archbishop Tillotson, who says: “Thou thoughtest, to raise thy
 “Family by those ways, *but thou hast consulted Shame to thy House*. No such effectual way to ruine thy Family, as Injustice and
 “Oppression, as then you would not transmit a Curse to your Children, and devolve Misery upon your Family. Free thy
 “Estates from the Burden and weight of
 “what is other Men’s.”

The

